Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Thursday 21 Mar 2024 until 23:59 on Friday 22 Mar 2024

Forecast Issued on Thursday 21 Mar 2024 at 03:03

Confidence: High confidence for rain later on Thursday afternoon and a cloudy day. Strong signal for a return to colder conditions towards the weekend with some snow accumulations on the fells. Strong winds and feeling very cold in northerly winds over the weekend.

Headline for Thursday 21 Mar 2024: Rain turning persistent with summit gales.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 21 Mar 2024

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales Medium Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Low Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** Low Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
FOG					
Fog	Light rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability					
20%	60%	80%	80%	80%	80%

Forecast for Thursday 21 Mar 2024

Weather: A cloudy morning with some mist and fog patches, some patchy light rain or drizzle at times, especially around western fells. The day will turn duller as rain becomes persistent across the Lake District from the northwest from late morning, turning heavier at times during the afternoon and evening. Becoming dry and clear around midnight.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 60% decreasing later in the day to 20% as rain spreads southeast.

Low cloud and visibility: During the morning layers of scattered cloud above 400m, especially around Southern fells, further north fell tops will be mainly clear during the morning. Low cloud tending to thicken and lower during the afternoon with layers of broken cloud above 300m by late afternoon. Visibility will be good but turning hazier by afternoon and moderate at times in rain in the afternoon.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 21 Mar 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	32/38 SW	41/49 SW	43/53 SW	40/51 SW	44/55 SW	36/45 SW	31/39 W
600	25/31 SW	37/46 SW	37/49 SW	33/43 SW	33/44 SW	27/37 SW	25/36 W
300	9/26 SW	14/37 SW	15/39 SW	12/34 SW	13/36 SW	11/29 SW	10/29 W
Valley	4/17 SW	10/28 SW	12/31 SW	10/28 SW	13/32 SW	11/26 SW	10/26 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	1/-6	2/-6	2/-6	3/-5	4/-4	4/-3	2/-6
600	3/-3	4/-4	4/-3	5/-2	5/-1	6/-0	4/-2
300	5/2	6/2	6/2	6/3	7/3	7/4	6/3
Valley	7/6	8/5	8/6	8/6	9/6	9/6	8/6
Freezing Level*	1000m	1000m	2500m	2800m	2700m	1900m	1000m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Strong winds throughout the day but gales at height from lunchtime. Note the significant windchill at height during the day, feeling very cold on the summits.

Forecast for Friday 22 Mar 2024

Weather: Cold northwesterly winds will blow in a few showers on Friday, these will turn wintry on the summits in the afternoon. Some sunshine away from showers but feeling very cold at times.

Maximum wind: Westerly 25-30mph with gusts 40mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 50%, low cloud increasing around the summits in showers.

Low cloud and visibility: Layers of low cloud forming above 600m in showers, periods of moderate visibility in showers, visibility turning poor in wintry showers later in the afternoon.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 7 Celsius falling to 3 Celsius.
At 800m: Zero Celsius.
Freezing level: 1000m falling to 800m.

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 20 March 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:10 Full report: All Lakeland paths are free from snow and ice as are the vast majority of the fells themselves. Only small, isolated, insignificant patches of snow remain above 900m at the top of steep north and east facing slopes. Even these are thawing and, indeed, the whole of Helvellyn's east face is now almost free from snow. Owing to their location and size none of the remaining patches of snow represent any hazard to walkers. The main hazards encountered today were the lack of visibility in the low cloud and the wet, slippery nature of the ground underfoot especially when traversing wet rocks on steep and exposed ground. Conversely, at lower elevations out of the cloud some paths were actually dry – an extremely pleasant experience!

Despite the budding plants in the valleys, the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) was only just above freezing around midday and, owing to the light winds, that was warmer than usual. Thus full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment, including a torch, are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells since those without spare clothes didn't want to hang around on the summit for long today! As mentioned, visibility was poor in the cloud at altitude, so a map and compass together with the ability to use them and navigate competently when landmarks can't be seen is also essential. Temperature: plus 4.0 C, Maximum wind speed 4.9 mph, Wind chill: plus 1.6 C, Average wind speed: 3.5 mph

Issued at: 03:03 on Thu 21 Mar 2024

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